



GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY

65102

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON
GOVERNOR

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November 29, 2014

Dear Members of the General Assembly:

Last night, I informed legislative leaders that I would be calling a special session of the General Assembly next week to provide critical funding for the ongoing operations of the Missouri National Guard and the Missouri State Highway Patrol in Ferguson and throughout the St. Louis region. Swift action is necessary to ensure both that these brave men and women can be paid on December 15 for their hard work on behalf of our state and that the resources necessary are available for any additional security and disaster response activities.

On November 17, I declared a state of emergency and activated the Missouri National Guard to support law enforcement in the St. Louis region in advance of a decision by the grand jury. In addition to providing security at nearly 100 locations around the region, including at police stations, fire houses, utility substations, hospitals, shopping malls and stadiums, guardsmen are also performing roving and static patrols in the Ferguson area. Hundreds of state troopers also continue to serve on the front lines with local law enforcement working around the clock to maintain public safety.

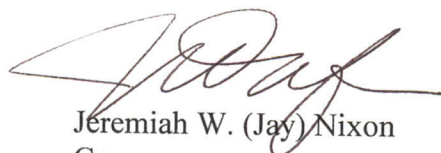
The actions of these Missourians have helped to maintain safety and security in the region, but they have also resulted in additional costs. Based on current estimates, the costs already incurred exceed the \$4 million authorized for the National Guard and the \$3.4 million authorized for state agencies, including the Highway Patrol, for emergency duty costs provided in the Fiscal Year 2015 budget. Unlike during previous emergencies such as in Joplin, with flooding in 2011, or with ice storms in 2009, a special session is necessary here due to the removal of the "estimated" designation from the emergency duty appropriations in the Fiscal Year 2015 budget, which provided the flexibility to deploy resources as necessary to respond to a disaster, without the necessity of seeking additional spending authority through a special session.

Time is of the essence to ensure that we meet our shared commitment to our citizen-soldiers and law enforcement and to ensure the continued safety and security of the St. Louis region. Guardsmen and troopers are paid on a bi-monthly basis, so the legislature must act quickly to ensure that they receive their paychecks on December 15. In addition, other security or response activities in the St. Louis region, such as debris removal, as well as disaster response activities that may be necessary elsewhere in the state, such as in response to ice storms or blizzards, could result in additional costs requiring this increased appropriation authority.

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We will provide you with more detailed information and a formal call for the special session in the coming days. I look forward to working with you to fulfill our shared obligation to these guardsmen and law enforcement officers and to demonstrate once again that when it comes to public safety, the people of Missouri can count on us to work together to get things done.

Sincerely,



Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor